A Plain James Coopers

CATECHISM

FOR

CHILDREN:

To which is added,

Another for the Inſtruction of thoſe that are to be admitted to the Lord's Supper.

The Eighth Edition.

Iſa. xxviii. 10. *Precept muſt be upon Precept, Line upon Line.*

By *MAT. HENRY.*

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MDCCXLI.

TO THE
READER.

I *Should not have thought of* drawing up, *much leſs* of publiſhing *this little* Catechiſm, *with its* Appendix, *if I had not been* ſollicited *to it by ſome of my Friends, whoſe Judgment and Advice I have a great deal of Reaſon to put a Value upon.*

The Children *into whoſe Hands it is deſigned to be put, are* ſuppoſed *to have learnt the* Creed, *the* Lord's Prayer, *and the* Ten Commandments; *thoſe firſt* Forms of ſound Words; *and then perhaps ſome Time ſpent in this, may prepare them afterwards to improve by the* Fullneſs *and* Accuracy *of the* Aſſemblies Catechiſm, *with which this doth very little interfere, and which therefore I*

hope, it will not be ſuſpected of a Deſign to ſupercede.

Whether ſuch a Catechiſm *as this be ſo* needful, *as ſome have ſaid they think it is, I know not; however, I hope it may be* uſeful *to ſome; and therefore I am willing to let it go abroad, and the Bleſſing of Heaven go along with it.*

It is God's Promiſe, that all ſhall know him, from the leaſt even to the greateſt. *That that Promiſe may be fulfilled, and all pious Endeavours,* for the propagating of Chriſtian Knowledge *be crown'd with Succeſs, is my Heart's Deſire and Prayer.*

July 7. 1703. Matt. Henry.

A Plain

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CATECHISM

FOR

CHILDREN.

PART I.

Of God and the Scriptures.

Q. 1. *WHAT muſt you do in the Days of your Youth?*

A. I muſt remember my Creator.

Q. 2. *Who is your Creator?*

A. The great God that made the World.

Q. 3. *Who is your Preſerver?*

A. The ſame God that made me, preſerves and maintains me; and in him I live, and move, and have my Being.

Q. 4. *What are you made and maintained for?*

A. To glorify God.

Q. 5. *What do you believe concerning this God?*

A. I believe that he is an infinite and eternal Spirit, moſt wiſe and powerful, holy, juſt, and good.

Q. 6. *How many Gods are there?*

A. There is but one God.

Q. 7. *How many Perſons are there in the Godhead?*

A. Three: The Father, Son, and Holy Ghoſt, and theſe three are one.

Q. 8. *What is your Duty to this God as your Creator?*

A. It is my Duty to fear and honour him, to worſhip and obey him, and in all my Ways to truſt in him, and to pleaſe him.

Q. 9. *What is the Rule of your Faith and Obedience?*

A. The holy Scriptures of the Old and New Teſtament, which we call the Bible.

Q. 10. *What is the Excellency of that Book?*

A. It

A. It is the Word of God.

Q. 11. *What uſe will it be of to you?*

A. It is able to make me wiſe to Salvation.

PART II.

Of our Miſery by Sin, and our Redemption by Chriſt.

Q. 12. *WHO were our firſt Parents?*

A. Adam and *Eve*, from whom we are all deſcended.

Q. 13. *What Condition did God create them in?*

A. Holy and Happy.

Q. 14. *How did they loſe their Holineſs and Happineſs?*

A. By their Diſobedience to the Command of God, in eating the forbidden Fruit.

Q. 15. *What Condition are we all born in?*

A. Sinful and miſerable.

Q. 16. *How do you perceive your Condition to be by Nature ſinful?*

A. Becauſe I find I am naturally prone to that which is evil, and backward to that which is good; and Fooliſhneſs is bound up in my Heart.

Q. 17. *Haw do you perceive your Condition to be by Nature miſerable?*

A. Becauſe I find my ſelf liable to many Troubles in this Life; and the Scripture tells me, I am by Nature a Child of Wrath.

Q. 18. *What would become of you then without a Saviour?*

A. I ſhould be certainly loſt and undone for ever.

Q. 19. *Who is it that ſaves us out of this ſad Condition?*

A. Our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, the only Mediator between God and Man.

Q. 20. *Who was Jeſus Chriſt?*

A. The eternal Son of God.

Q. 21. *What did he do to redeem and ſave us?*

A. He took our Nature upon him, and became Man.

Q. 22. *What Life did he live in that Nature?*

A. A Life of perfect Holineſs, leaving us an Example.

Q. 23. *What Doctrine did he preach?*

A. A true and excellent Doctrine, concerning God and himſelf, and another World.

Q. 24. *What Miracles did he work to confirm his Doctrine?* *A.*

A. He healed the ſick with a Word's ſpeaking, and raiſed the dead, and caſt out Devils, and many other the like.

Q. 25. *What death did he die?*

A. The curſed Death of the Croſs, to ſatisfy for our Sins, and to reconcile us to God.

Q. 26. *What became of him after he was dead?*

A. He roſe again from the dead on the third Day, and aſcended up into Heaven.

Q. 27. *Where is he now?*

A. He is at the Right Hand of God, where he ever lives, making Interceſſion for us, and hath all Power both in Heaven and in Earth.

Q. 28. *When will he come again?*

A. He will come again in Glory, at the laſt Day, to judge the World.

PART III.

Concerning Baptiſm, and the Covenant of Grace.

Q. 29. *What Relation do you ſtand in to the Lord Jeſus?*

A. I

A. I am one of his Diſciples; for I am a baptized Chriſtian.

Q. 30. *Into whoſe Name were you baptized?*

A. Into the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghoſt.

Q. 31. *What was the Meaning of your being ſo baptized?*

A. I was thereby given up in a Covenant Way, to Father, Son, and Holy Ghoſt.

Q. 32. *What is the Covenant which was ſignified and ſealed in your Baptiſm?*

A. The Covenant of Grace made with us in Jeſus Chriſt.

Q. 33. *What is the Sum of that Covenant?*

A. That God will be in Chriſt to us a God, and we muſt be to him a People.

Q. 34. *How then muſt you take the Lord for your God?*

A. I muſt take God the Father for my chief Good, and higheſt End; God the Son, for my Prince and Saviour; and God the Holy Ghoſt, for my Sanctifier, Teacher, Guide, and Comforter.

Q. 35. *How muſt you give up yourſelf to him to be one of his People?* *A.*

A. I muſt deny all Ungodlineſs, and worldly, fleſhly Luſts, and muſt reſolve to live ſoberly, righteouſly and godly in this preſent World, looking for the bleſſed Hope.

Q. 36. *What are the three great Bleſſings promiſed in this Covenant?*

A. The Pardon of Sin, the Gift of the Holy Ghoſt, and eternal Life.

Q. 37. *What are the two great Conditions of this Covenant?*

A. Repentance towards God, and Faith towards our Lord Jeſus Chriſt.

Q. 38. *What is it to repent of your Sins?*

A. It is to be ſorry that I have offended God, in what I have done amiſs, and to do ſo no more.

Q. 39. *What is it to believe in Jeſus Chriſt?*

A. It is to receive him, and rely upon him as my Prophet, Prieſt, and King, and to give up my ſelf to be ruled, and taught, and ſaved by him.

PART IV.

Concerning our Duty to God, our ſelves, and our Neighbour.

Q. 40. *HOW muſt you evidence the Sincerity of your Faith and Repentance?*

A.

A. By a diligent and conſcientious Obedience to all God's Commandments.

Q. 41. *What is the firſt and great Commandment?*

A. To love God with all my Heart.

Q. 42. *What is the ſecond, which is like unto it?*

A. To love my Neighbour as my ſelf, and to ſhew it, by doing as I would be done by.

Q. 43. *What is the Honour you owe to God's Name?*

A. I muſt never take his Name in vain, but muſt always make mention of it with Reverence and Seriouſneſs.

Q. 44. *What is the Honour you owe to God's Word?*

A. I muſt read it and hear it with Diligence and Attention: I muſt meditate upon it, believe it, and frame my Life according to it.

Q. 45. *What is the Honour you owe to God in his Providence?*

A. I muſt receive all his Mercies with Thankfulneſs, and I muſt bear all Afflictions with Patience, and Submiſſion to his holy Will.

Q. 46. *What is the Honour you owe to the Lord's Day.* *A.* I

A. I muſt keep the Sabbath holy to God, by a diligent Performance of the religious Duties of the Day, both publick and private, not ſpeaking my own Words, nor doing my own Works on that Day.

Q. 47. *How muſt you honour God in Prayer?*

A. I muſt every Day, by ſolemn Prayer, ſeek the Favour of God, and give unto him the Glory due unto his Name.

Q. 48. *In whoſe Name muſt you pray?*

A. In the Name of *Jeſus Chriſt* only.

Q. 48. *What muſt you pray for?*

A. For Mercy to pardon, and Grace to help in Time of Need.

Q. 50. *What elſe muſt you do in your Prayers?*

A. I muſt confeſs my Sins, and give God Praiſe for his Goodneſs to me.

Q. 51. *What muſt be your daily Care concerning your own Soul;*

A. I muſt take care that my Heart be not lifted up with Pride, nor diſturbed with Anger, or any ſinful Paſſion.

Q. 52. *What muſt be your Care concerning your Body?* *A.*

A. I muſt take Care that it be not defiled by Intemperance, Uncleanneſs, or any fleſhly Luſts.

Q. 53. *What muſt be your Care concerning your Words?*

A. I muſt never tell a Lye, nor mock at any Body, nor call foul Names, nor ſpeak any filthy Words.

Q. 54. *What is your Duty to your Parents and Governours?*

A. I muſt reverence and obey them in the Lord: I muſt thankfully receive their Inſtructions, and ſubmit to their Rebukes, and labour in every thing to be a Comfort to them.

Q. 55. *What is your Duty to the Poor?*

A. I muſt pity, help, and relieve them according to my Ability.

Q. 56. *What is your Duty to all Men?*

A. I muſt render to all their Dues; I muſt be honeſt and juſt in all my Dealings; I muſt be reſpectful to my Friends, and forgive my Enemies, and ſpeak Evil of no Man.

Q. 57. *How are you able to perform this Duty?*

A. Not

A. Not in any Strength of my own, but in the Strength of the Graces of *Jeſus Chriſt*, which I muſt aſk of God for his Sake.

Q. 58. *What muſt you do when you find you come ſhort of your Duty?*

A. I muſt renew my Repentance, and pray to God for Pardon in the Blood of Chriſt, and be careful to do my Duty better for the Time to come.

Q. 59. *What Encouragement have you thus to live in the Fear of God?*

A. If I do ſo, I ſhall certainly be happy both in this World, and in that to come.

PART V.

Concerning the Future State.

Q. 60. *WHAT will become of you ſhortly?*

A. I muſt ſhortly die, and leave this World.

Q. 61. *What becomes of the Body at Death?*

A. It returns to the Earth, to be raiſed to Life again at the Day of Judgment.

Q. 62.

Q. 62. *What becomes of the Soul then?*

A. It returns to God who gave it, to be determined to an unchangeable State, according to what was done in the Body.

Q. 63. *What ſhall be the Portion of the wicked and the ungodly in the other World?*

A. They ſhall all go to Hell.

Q. 64. *What is Hell?*

A. It is a State of everlaſting Miſery and Torment, in the Lake that burns with Fire and Brimſtone.

Q. 65. *What ſhall be the Portion of the godly in the other World?*

A. They ſhall all go to Heaven.

Q. 66. *What is Heaven?*

A. It is a State of everlaſting Reſt and Joy with God and *Jeſus Chriſt*.

Q. 67. *What Life then will you reſolve to live in this World?*

A. God's Grace enabling me, I will live a holy, godly Life, and make it my great Care and Buſineſs to ſerve God, and ſave my Soul.

A ſhort

A ſhort Catechiſm *for the Inſtruction of thoſe that are to be admitted to the* Lord's Supper.

Q. 1. *WHAT is the Lord's Supper?*

A. It is a Sacrament of the New Teſtament.

Q. 2. *Who ordained this Sacrament?*

A. Our Lord Jeſus, in the Night wherein he was betrayed.

Q. 3. *What are the outward Signs in this Sacrament?*

A. Giving and receiving Bread and Wine, and eating and drinking of them in a ſolemn and religious Manner.

Q. 4. *What doth the Bread broken ſignify and repreſent to us?*

A. The broken Body of our Lord Jeſus, which was crucified for us.

Q. 5. *What doth the Wine ſignify?*

A. The precious blood of Chriſt, which was ſhed for us upon the Croſs.

Q. 6. *What doth the Miniſter's giving the Bread and Wine ſignify?*

A. The gracious Offer that is made us in the Goſpel, of Chriſt and all his Benefits, upon the Terms of Faith, and Repentance, and new Obedience.

Q. 7. *What doth the receiving of the Bread and Wine ſignify?*

A. Our hearty Acceptance of Chriſt, as he is offered to us in the Goſpel, and our Compliance with the Terms of that Offer.

Q. 8. *What doth the eating of the Bread, and drinking of the Wine ſignify?*

A. The Satisfaction we take in Chriſt and his Goſpel, and the Nouriſhment of our Souls thereby through Faith.

Q. 9. *Why did Chriſt ordain this Sacrament?*

A. To be a Memorial of his Death till he come; for he ſaid, Do this in Remembrance of me.

Q. 10. *What more is there in this Sacrament?*

A. It is a Seal of the Covenant of Grace, ſtrongly aſſuring us, that God is willing in Chriſt to be to us a God, and ſtrongly engaging us to be to him a People.

Q. 11. *Why would you be admitted to this ſolemn Ordinance?*

A. Becauſe I deſire to take the Covenant of my Baptiſm upon my ſelf, and to make it mine own Act and Deed to join my ſelf unto the Lord.

Q. 12. *What do you think of that Covenant which is there ſealed?*

A. I think it is well ordered in all things, and ſure; and I do heartily conſent to it, and venture my Soul and my Salvation upon it.

Q. 13. *What do you think of Chriſt, who is there ſet before you?*

A. I think he is a gracious and all-ſufficient Saviour, and I accept of him as my Lord and my God.

Q. 14. *What do you think of Sin?*

A. I think Sin to be the worſt of Evils; and I do heartily repent of my own Sin, and turn from it to God.

Q. 15. *What do you think of this World?*

A. I think it is Vanity and Vexation of Spirit, and I will never ſet my Heart upon it.

Q. 16. *What do you think of the other World?*

A. I think the Things of another World are real and great; and very

near, and I would therefore give all Diligence to prepare for that World.

Q. 17. *What do you think of a religious Life?*

A. I think that a holy, heavenly Life, ſpent in the Service of God, and in Communion with him, is the moſt pleaſant and comfortable Life a Man can live in the World.

Q. 18. *Will you then live ſuch a Life?*

A. By the Grace of God, I will, and with Purpoſe of Heart will cleave to the Lord.

Q. 19. *What Communion do you deſire to have with the Church of Chriſt?*

A. By Faith, Hope, and Love, I deſire to maintain a ſpiritual Communion with all that in every Place call on the Name of Jeſus Chriſt our Lord.

Q. 20. *What muſt you do in your Preparation for the Lord's Supper?*

A. I muſt examine my ſelf.

Q. 21. *How muſt you examine your ſelf about your ſpiritual State?*

A. I muſt ſeriouſly enquire whether I do in Sincerity conſent to the Covenant of Grace, and whether I be indeed born again.

Q. 22.

Q. 22. *What will be an Evidence that your ſpiritual State is bad?*

A. If I live a vain and careleſs Life, loving the World more than God, and minding the Things of the Fleſh more than the Things of the Spirit, and allowing my ſelf in any known Sin, I have Reaſon to conclude, that whatever Profeſſion I make, my ſpiritual State is bad.

Q. 23. *What will be an Evidence that your ſpiritual State is good?*

A. If I be heartily concerned about my Soul and Eternity, and carefully ſeek the Favour of God through Chriſt; if I ſtrive againſt Sin, make Conſcience of my Words and Ways, and have Reſpect to all God's Commandments, I have Reaſon to hope that notwithſtanding my daily Infirmities, my ſpiritual State is good.

Q. 24. *How muſt you examine your Conſcience about your particular Actions?*

A. I muſt ſolemnly reflect upon what I have done amiſs in Thought, Word and Deed, and I muſt humbly confeſs it before God, and judge my ſelf for it.

Q. 25. *What elſe muſt you do in your Preparation for the Lord's Supper?*

A. I muſt earneſtly pray to God for his Spirit and Grace: I muſt meditate much upon the Love of Chriſt, in dying for me; and I muſt be in Charity with all Men.

Q. 26. *After what Manner muſt you receive this Sacrament?*

A. With humble Reverence and Serioufneſs; with Sorrow for Sin, and Hatred of it; with Faith in Chriſt, and the lively Workings of pious and devout Affection towards him.

Q. 27. *What muſt you do after you have received this Sacrament?*

A. I muſt walk cheerfully with God in all holy Converſation, and never return again to Folly.

Q. 28. *Who are they that receive this Sacrament unworthily?*

A. They that continue in Love and League with Sin, while they pretend to covenant with God.

Q. 29. *What is the Miſery of thoſe that do ſo.*

A. They eat and drink Judgment to themſelves, not diſcerning the Lord's Body.

Q. 30.

Q. 30. *Who ſhall be welcome to this Ordinance?*

A. They that by Faith cordially conſent to the Covenant of Grace, and do Honour to their Redeemer, by ſhewing forth his Death.

Q. 31. *What Benefit do they receive by it, that duly improve it?*

A. Their Faith is hereby ſtrengthned, their Reſolutions are confirmed, their Comforts are increaſed, and they have an Earneſt of the everlaſting Feaſt.

FINIS.

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